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SENATE MEMORIAL 36

48TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2008

INTRODUCED BY

Bernadette M. Sanchez

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THAT A STUDY BE PERFORMED ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF A
PRE-APPRENTICESHIP CURRICULUM IN HIGH SCHOOL CAREER-TECHNICAL
PROGRAMS.

WHEREAS, New Mexico has one of the highest dropout rates
in the United States; and

WHEREAS, only twenty-three and nine-tenths percent of New
Mexico high school graduates go on to attend college; and

WHEREAS, students who are not college-bound currently have
inadequate options to keep them engaged in school and on track
for graduation; and

WHEREAS, limited educational resources are currently
dedicated to career-technical and vocational training; and

WHEREAS, an untrained and uninterested student has a
higher likelihood of becoming involved in gangs and other

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1 counterproductive behavior; and

2 WHEREAS, there is an ongoing demand for well-trained
3 employees in many technical fields in this state, and those
4 jobs have high pay scales and provide benefits; and

5 WHEREAS, students should have an opportunity to start a
6 trades-based career path during their junior and senior years
7 of high school through pre-apprenticeship programs; and

8 WHEREAS, students enrolled in a pre-apprenticeship
9 curriculum will be better prepared to enter registered
10 apprenticeship programs with some required coursework completed
11 after high school graduation; and

12 WHEREAS, industry experts are often the most qualified
13 teachers for pre-apprenticeship programs and pre-apprenticeship
14 curriculum development; and

15 WHEREAS, it is in the public interest of the state to
16 encourage and facilitate the formation of cooperative
17 relationships among business, labor and educational
18 institutions to develop industry-taught pre-apprenticeship
19 programs in order to give students the skills to meet workforce
20 needs; and

21 WHEREAS, any program or curriculum development that
22 results from the cooperative relationship among business, labor
23 and educational institutions should be called "Running Start
24 for Careers";

25 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE

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1 OF NEW MEXICO that representatives from the public education
2 department, the higher education department, the workforce
3 solutions department, the economic development department, the
4 association of commerce and industry, industry advocacy groups
5 and registered apprenticeship programs in the state be
6 requested to study the feasibility of implementing an industry-
7 taught pre-apprenticeship curriculum in high school career-
8 technical programs; and

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the findings and
10 recommendations be presented to the legislative education study
11 committee and any other appropriate legislative committee
12 during the 2008 interim; and

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
14 transmitted to the secretary of public education, the secretary
15 of higher education, the secretary of workforce solutions, the
16 secretary of economic development, the speaker of the house of
17 representatives, the president pro tempore of the senate and
18 the governor.

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